

Message Text

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21-12

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 EUR-10 DRC-01 RSC-01 EA-13

CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

INR-10 NSC-10 PRS-01 SPC-01 OMB-01 AF-05 /077 W

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P 160420Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6830

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 4753

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, NP

SUBJECT: NEPALESE CONTINGENT TO UNEF

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH VISITING BRITISH QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, SIR WILLIAM JACKSON, NOVEMBER 15, DCM WAS TOLD THAT QUESTION OF BRITISH AIRLIFT FOR NEPALESE CONTINGENT TO UNEF HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH GON OFFICIALS. SIR WILLIAM SAID THAT DURING HIS CONVERSATIONS IN KATHMANDU, HE HAD MADE CLEAR THAT BRITISH HAD CAPABILITY TO CARRY OUT AIRLIFT THOUGH NOT USING BRITANNIA AIRCRAFT WHICH CURRENTLY FULLY COMMITTED TO SEMI-ANNUAL AIRLIFT OF GURKHAS FROM KATHMANDU TO HONG KONG. SIR WILLIAM NOTED THAT ANY DECISION BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN UN AIRLIFT DEPENDED ON NUMBER OF POLITICAL FACTORS OUTSIDE HIS COMPETENCE, AND HE HAD ONLY DISCUSSED WITH NEPALESE TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES OF BRITISH FORCES.

2. COMMENT: WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE FROM KATHMANDU PERSPECTIVE THE MANY FACTORS, POLITICAL AND OTHERWISE, WHICH MUST GO INTO CHOICE OF AIRLIFTING COUNTRY FOR CONTINGENT IN UNEF. WE HAVE NOTED THAT CURRENT THINKING OF UN SECRETARIAT IS THAT U.S.S. R. SHOULD PERFORM AIRLIFT FOR NEPALESE. GIVEN SOVIETS' LACK OF

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EXPERIENCE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND POTENTIAL CHINESE

SENSITIVITIES, IT SEEMS TO US THAT IDEA OF BRITISH AIRLIFT IS ONE
WELL WORTH PURSUING. CERTAINLY THEY HAVE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE IN
AREA AND APPARENTLY HAVE LOGISTICAL CAPABILITY SUFFICIENT FOR
PURPOSES REQUIRED. WE BELIEVE NEPALESE, IF GIVEN A CHOICE, WOULD
ALSO WELCOME BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN AIRLIFT.
CARGO

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NNN

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